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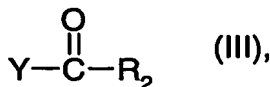
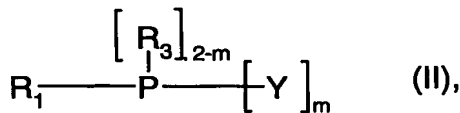
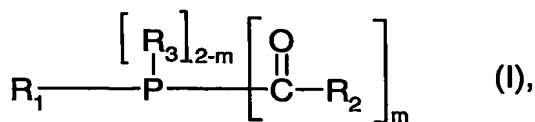
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(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ACYLPHOSPHINES



(57) Abstract: A process for the preparation of acylphosphines of formula (I) wherein m is 1 or 2; R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> are organic residues derived from aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbons; by (1) reacting organic phosphorus halides of formula (II) wherein Y is Br or Cl, with an alkali metal in a solvent in the presence of an activator, wherein the alkali metal is present in the form of a dispersion of alkali metal particles having a mean particle size of ≤ 500 μm in the solvent, (2) subsequent reaction with acid halides of formula (III) which process is carried out without isolation of the intermediates. Preferably, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are independently from each other phenyl, naphthyl and bi-phenyl, being unsubstituted or substituted by one to five halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alky and/or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy. Most preferably, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are phenyl and R<sub>2</sub> is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl. The alkali metal is preferably sodium, the activator is preferably chlorobenzene and/or n-butanol.